igth December, 1916, after a Cabinet discussion of its tenor :—

> " Any man or set of men who wantonly, or without sufficient cause, prolonged a terrible conflict like this would have on their soul a crime that oceans could not cleanse, On the other hand, it is equally true that any man or set of men who out of a sense of weariness or despair abandoned the struggle without achieving the high purpose for which we had entered into it being nearly fulfilled would have been guilty of the costliest act of poltroonery ever perpetrated by any statesman. I should like to quote the very well-known words of Abraham Lincoln under similar conditions :—
>
> " We accepted this war for an object, and a worthy object, and the war will end when that object is attained. Under God I hope it will never end until that time."

My definition of attitude

Are we likely to achieve that object by accepting the invitation of the German Chancellor ? That is the only question we have to put to ourselves* There has been some talk about proposals of peace. What are the proposals ? There are none. To enter at the invitation of Germany, proclaiming herself victorious, without any knowledge of the proposals she proposes to make, into a conference, is to put our heads into a noose with the rope end

in the hands of Germany.

. . . The mere word that led Belgium to her destruction will not satisfy Europe any more. We all believed it. We all trusted it. It gave way at the first pressure of temptation, and Europe has